

Gnosall Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1911.

THE district is purely an agricultural one, and lying on the watershed between the valleys of the two rivers, is drained to the east by feeders of the Trent, and to the west by those of the Severn. The soil is varied, the subsoil mostly sand and clay, and is eminently suitable for dairy farming, to which the land is now largely given up. The district is well wooded, the climate a temperate one, and there are several sites well protected from the north and east winds, and well adapted for a Sanatorium. The population is a somewhat scattered one, principally engaged in agricultural pursuits, there being no factories or industries of any kind in the district. There is no great amount of actual poverty, less than one per cent. being in receipt of relief. There are no hospitals or institutions, but the district is well served by the Stafford Infirmary, which is within fairly easy reach from most parts of it.

The following table gives statistics of the birth and death rates for the year compared with the average of preceding years, and with those of England and Wales for the year 1911. In calculating these the same population has been used all through, viz., that of the Census of 1901, as I find that since then the population has remained practically stationary. For details as to the causes of and ages at death, I would refer to Table III. accompanying this report.

	1911.	Average of 5 preceding years	England and Wales for 1911
Deaths per 1,000 of population	14·2	11·4	14·6
Births per 1,000 of population	21·2	22·5	24·4
Deaths from Zymotic Disease per 1,000 of population ...	2·5	0·3	1·8
Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 births ...	70	93	130

In calculating the above rates, due allowances have been made for the deaths or residents occurring outside the district, in the Union Workhouses, the County Asylum, and elsewhere. The general death rate is somewhat higher than the average, but this is explained by the rise in the Zymotic death rate,

there having been no less than twelve deaths during the year from Zymotic diseases. Six of these were due to Whooping Cough, three to Diphtheria, two to Enteritis, and one to Influenza. In addition there has been a large death rate among aged people over 65, from various causes.

The Birth rate, though shewing an increase on that of the previous year, is still below the average for the district. The infantile death rate however, compares favourably with the average for the past five years, and still more so with that for England and Wales.

The following table shows the number and nature of the Infectious Diseases which occurred during the year, and also the number of houses infected. The number of cases given below exceeds the number notified under the Notification Act for this reason, that as a rule in most epidemics, investigation brings to light cases which are so mild or ill-defined as not to have attracted notice or received medical attendance. These, however, are often the most important, as they are frequently the first to occur, and it is through such mild cases attending or returning to School after a short interval that an epidemic is often well under way before it compels attention. I consider, however, that the system whereby it is the duty of the masters to call attention to children absent from any suspicious cause is a valuable aid to checking this state of affairs, especially if in suspicious cases a medical certificate of the cause of absence were regularly insisted upon before the return to school.

	Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria. Erysipelas		
Number of Houses Infected	15	8	2
Number of Cases	40	10	2
Number of Deaths	0	3	0

Scarlet Fever has been somewhat prevalent throughout the year, but with the exception of a small epidemic in Moreton, in September, for which the School was closed for a month, and a few cases in Knightley, the cases have been scattered: small outbreaks occurring at different times and places throughout the district. In nearly all of these, I found that the source of infection was in the neighbouring market town of Newport, from whence infection was from time to time introduced into the district, but fortunately was in many cases, with the exceptions above mentioned, confined to the houses originally infected. In some of these houses, however, as many as five or six cases occurred at intervals, so that they remained in an infectious condition for a very long time, in one case from May to November. This state of affairs, in addition to being a grave danger to health, was (where, as in the case mentioned, the house was a business one) a great loss and inconvenience to the householder, and the most effective remedy to prevent this in future would be, as I have fre-

quently pointed out, the provision of more effective means of isolation than is now available. Effective isolation in the ordinary cottage home is unattainable, and the other remedies tried, inunction included, have failed in producing the desired effect. Fortunately, the disease was in most cases mild in type, and I am happy to be able to report that there were no fatalities. In all cases advice is given as to personal isolation, and the disinfection of bedclothes and wearing apparel, and the rooms occupied are finally disinfected with Formalin.

DIPHTHERIA.

An isolated case of this disease occurred in Gnosall in January and another in May. The patients and other members of the families were treated with Anti-toxin, and though isolation was impossible, the outbreaks promptly came to an end. Towards the end of September three cases were notified from Norbury Junction, and in October one from Norbury, one from High Offley, and one from Forton; and as enquiries made elicited the fact that though living some distance apart the children infected were all attending Norbury School, instructions were given to close the School. This was done for a month, and the School premises were cleansed and disinfected with Formalin, and on re-opening no further trouble from this cause arose. Here again the patients, and all contacts, were treated with Anti-toxin. Of the three deaths which occurred, two were from Heart Failure during apparent convalescence, the third was in an infant fifteen months old.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An epidemic of Measles in Forton in September caused the closure of the School for a month.

An epidemic of Chicken-pox caused Church Eaton School to be closed a week earlier than usual for the Christmas holidays. Whooping Cough was extremely prevalent throughout the year in the parishes of Adbaston, High Offley, and Gnosall, and with the consent of the Education authorities, the summer holidays were considerably extended at High Offley, Knightley and Gnosall.

The Schools closed for Infectious Diseases were :

School.	Disease.	Period of the Year.
Knightley	Whooping Cough	July and August.
High Offley	Whooping Cough	July and August.
Gnosall	Whooping Cough	July, August & September
Forton	Measles	September and October.
Moreton	Scarlet Fever	September and October.
Norbury	Diphtheria	October and November.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

No official notifications of this disease were received throughout the year, but I find that the deaths registered from this cause amount to six in all. This is distinctly a larger death rate than usual from Tuberculosis, as I have found that for many years past the district has been peculiarly free from this disease. I find, however, that most of these fatal cases have occurred either in people who, having left the district to follow their occupations in the towns have contracted the disease and returned home again, or in their relations who have been infected after their return. In every instance I have instructed the relations to disinfect the houses after death, but in future this should be attended to by your Inspector in the same way as other Infectious Diseases, and the same process should be carried out where any one known to be infected removes to another house.

The following is a summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's department during the year:

		Numbers of		Abatement Notices.		Nuisances Abated after Notice by	
		Inspections and Observations.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector	Authority.
Dwelling Houses	Foul Conditions	1	1	1	...	1	...
	Structural Defects	33	33	2	33	2	26
	Overcrowding	4	4	4	2	2	2
	Unfit for Habitation	17	17	...	17	...	10
	Lodging Houses .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops		10	3	3	1	2	1
Cowsheds		76	25	29	2	25	2
Bakehouses		4	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses		4	1	1	...	1	...
Canal Boats		23	7	...	7	...	7
Ashpits and Privies [No. of Inspections not Recorded]		31	31	2	29	2	25
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		3	3	3	...	3	...
Water Closets .....		...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	{ Defective Traps No Disconnection Other Faults } No. of Inspections not Recorded	54	54	41	33	18	25
Water Supply		20	20	9	11	9	6
Pigsties		6	6	6	4	2	4
Totals		286	205	99	139	67	108

Unwholesome Food: No action required.
 Food and Drugs Act: No action required.
 Samples of Water taken for analysis: 2.
 Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use: 1.
 Prosecution for occupying a House without a Water Certificate: 1.

Precautions against Infectious Disease:

Lots of Infected Bedding, disinfected or destroyed: 2.
 Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease: 26.
 Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease: 2.

Note by Inspector:

The considerable difference between notices served and nuisances abated after service of notice, is owing to the fact that many of the notices are still in force, the time limit not having expired. This is especially so in the case of notices served under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

FOOD, MILK SUPPLY.

A large proportion of the milk produced in the district is sent off to the towns, and it is consequently often very difficult to obtain a sufficient supply for infants or sick persons. The extension of Small Holdings, however, may probably help to remedy this in future, as their occupiers seem to be generally more inclined to sell locally than those farming on a larger scale. The dairies and cowsheds are inspected periodically, and reference to the above summary shows that defects found are generally remedied after informal notice by the Inspector.

BAKE-HOUSES AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Inspection shows that on the whole these are in a satisfactory condition, and well kept.

WATER SUPPLY.

Too many of the inhabitants still obtain their water from surface wells, and as these have been generally sunk in time past more with an eye to convenience than to safety from contamination, close very often to the back doors and the drains. Very often faulty from houses, pigsties, etc., they are frequently found to be in anything but a satisfactory condition when examined. From time to time, however, water supplies worked either by ram or gravitation have been set up, for example, at Chatwell, Moreton Schools and part of Moreton, Forton Schools, Islington, Meretown and Sutton, High Onn, Wood Eaton, Wilbrighton, Swanpit, and part of Gnosall village. These are found to give a satisfactory supply, and

an extension of them wherever possible is desirable, for instance, an extension of the Gnosall supply to Gnosall Heath, where it is equally badly required.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The ultimate destination of much of the sewerage is very often in a neighbouring ditch or stream, or from thence wherever it can find its way. In isolated parts this, of course, is not so serious, beyond the nuisance caused, but where houses are close together it is a danger to health as well, and should be remedied wherever possible: for instance, the drainage system of Gnosall village should be extended to Gnosall Heath, provision to carry this out having already been partly made.

HOUSING.

I include herewith a special report on the subject by the Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The district is solely an agricultural one, and contains no factories, consequently it requires no report.

I append herewith the usual tables of sickness and mortality for the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

R. S. STEELE, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Gnosall Rural District Council,

March 9th, 1912

Gnosall Rural District Council.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Annual Report.

7th March, 1912.

THE total number of inspections made since 10th March, 1911, was 52, of which number 28 have been, or are being, dealt with by the District Council, for various contraventions of the Act.

The following is a list of the various defects found in these twenty-eight houses:—

	No. of Contraventions
No through draught	20
Faulty appearance of premises in regard to	
(1) Repairs	19
(2) Roof	17
(3) Eaves Gutters	17
(4) Dampness	17
(5) Cleanliness	8
Cases of Overcrowding	1
Foul Smells	7
Non-Provision or Defective Food Store	7
Faulty Ventilation	13
Insufficiency of Daylight in Living-rooms ...	2
Water Supply. (1) Contamination	2
(2) Insufficient Quantity	2
(3) Total Absence	4
Defective or Non-Provision of Sink	27
Privy. (1) Structural Faults	28
(2) Bad Position	3
(3) Foulness	14
Animals kept under Insanitary Conditions	5
Deposits of Refuse	1
Bad Condition of Outbuildings	3
Faulty or Insanitary Drainage	9
Absence of Drainage	15
Houses unfit for Habitation	8
Total Number of Defects in 28 Houses	—
dealt with by Authority	249

Notices to Repair. No. served	23
Notices complied with within specified time	5
Closing Orders Issued. No.	17
Repairs carried out after issue of Closing Order	4
Ejectment Notices. No. Served	7
Repairs carried out after issue of Ejectment Order	2
Houses rendered vacant after service of Ejectment Order	4
Notices still in force	9
<hr/>	
Total No. of Notices Served	47

Of the 28 houses dealt with by the Sanitary Authority, only four were found to be without serious defects, the remaining 24 being all in a very bad condition, and were especially chosen for their insanitary state. There remain on the Inspector's books some 24 houses to be dealt with by the Authority, where practically similar conditions to the 28 already dealt or being dealt with, are to be found. A considerable period of time must elapse before the whole district has been inspected and the numerous defects dealt with and remedied. It has been found that in the majority of cases where cottage property is owned by persons of the cottager class, the necessary repairs cannot be carried out on the grounds of impecuniosity.

Also another point that should be observed is that in the majority of cases where cottages of the meaner class have been condemned and ejectment notices served on the occupiers, a very low rent has been paid, generally ranging between 1s. 3d. to 2s. per week, and the occupiers being as a rule in straightened circumstances, and houses at such a low rental being difficult to procure, there remains no other alternative for these occupiers but to become inmates of the District Workhouse, and an additional charge on the rates.

HARRY V. HEATH.

Inspector under the Act,

Brookfield House,

Newport, Salop.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

Name of District, Gnosall Rural.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths,		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate	Of Non-residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents Registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	4700	...	115	24.4	54	11.4	...	...	14	121	54	11.4
1907	4700	...	109	23.1	48	10.2	...	...	7	64	48	10.2
1908	4700	...	112	23.8	65	13.8	...	2	9	80	67	14.2
1909	4700	...	103	21.9	50	10.6	...	2	8	77	52	11.06
1910	4700	...	92	19.5	52	11.06	...	2	11	125	54	11.4
1911	4700	...	100	21.2	60	12.7	...	7	7	70	67	14.2

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by Water) ... 26083
 Total population at all ages (at Census of 1911) ... 4707
 Number of inhabited houses (at Census of 1911) ... 1075
 Average number of persons per house (at Census of 1911) ... 4.1

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.
Name of District, Gnosall Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED At Ages—Years.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY <i>i.e.</i> Parish or Ward) of the District.							TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	
	Ages.	At Ages—Years.						65 and upwards.	of the District.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		1 Adbaston.	2 Forton.	3 Gnosall.	4 High Offley.	5 Norbury.	6 Church Eaton.		7
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	9	1	7	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	4	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	13	17	4	1	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	35	5	29	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	46	6	36	2	...	1	1	...	15	20	5	5	1	...	...	..

There is no Isolation Hospital.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

Name of District, Gnosall Rural.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 2 years.	2 & under 5 years.	5 & under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 & upwards.	
I		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All Causes	Uncertified	65	6	4	2	5	3	6	9	30	
	Certified	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Enteric Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough		6	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup		3	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..
Influenza		1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
+											
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		6	..	..	..	1	1	4	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease		7	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	
Bronchitis		6	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	
Broncho-Pneumonia		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all other forms)		1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs		2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis		2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Puerperal Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth...		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicides		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Other Defined Diseases		27	..	..	..	..	1	1	4	21	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		67	7	4	2	5	3	6	9	31	

+ Here should be enumerated any deaths from other diseases than those given above, having public health importance, such as Typhus Fever, Continued Fever, Relapsing Fever, Dysentery, Glanders, Anthrax, and Lead-poisoning.

TABLE IV.
Gnosall Rural District.
Infant Mortality.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	Certified	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Uncertified	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	3	..	1	7
Small Pox	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes	...	...	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				1	..	..	..	..	2	3	..	1	7

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 95 ; Illegitimate, 5.

Nett Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants, 6 ; Illegitimate infants, 1